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"A New Group of Stone Implements from the Southern Shores of Lake Michigan" is the title of an attractively illustrated article by Dr. W. A. Phillips. Most of the implements are made from flakes; the trap cobblestones from which they were flaked do not readily lend themselves to the blocking out of blades from nuclei. F. R.

ZOÖLOGY.

Beasts.—The author of *Beasts*¹ belongs to that order of naturalists who, to the dread of housewives and maids and to the delight of all healthy boys, fill their pockets, cupboards, and rooms with reptiles and rodents of every description. From the pages of Mr. Kennedy's book we gather that a young crocodile occupied one shelf of his bookcase, a python another, and a pair of white rats a third. In one corner of the room stood the kennel of an armadillo; a vivarium abounding with salamanders, frogs, and tortoises stood by the window; and from somewhere emerged at night a potto, which became so hilarious that three several policemen roused the inmates of the house to warn them against burglars. The book is made up of short sketches of the interesting ways of all these creatures, and of many more, put together loosely, in a familiar style, the chief characteristics of which are sympathy for the whole range of the animal kingdom and a keen love of humor.

It is when animals refuse to behave after the rules laid down for them in the books that they have the greatest interest for Mr. Kennedy. When a toad, instead of rolling its cast skin into a ball and swallowing it with gusto, as it ought, takes it down "slowly and disgustfully"; when a tadpole "covers itself with ridicule" by trying to jump about before it has cast its long clumsy tail,—then it is that he thinks their actions worth chronicling. The curious awkwardness which some animals display in the capture of their food is the subject of some amusing pages. Worms, in particular, prove a severe test to the intelligence and patience of many of the reptiles. The "crass stupidity" of the lower reptiles prevents the author's interest in their habits from passing into affection. A white rat, however,

¹ Kennedy, Wardlaw. *Beasts*. Thumb-Nail Studies in Pets. London, The Macmillan Company, 1899. Illustrated with numerous drawings and photographs. 152 pp. Price \$1.50.

and a mongoose evidently won a warm spot in his heart. The chapter on the mongoose, in particular, is a charming study of a fascinating subject. The almost human inquisitiveness of the creature, his fondness for toys and love of human fellowship, are lovingly dwelt on. Frequent reference to the need of care and thought for the wants of the creatures which are imprisoned as pets, is evidence of the author's sympathy for them and his acute observation of their habits. The final chapter of the book is on birds, which the author never deprives of their liberty; the chapter is a strong appeal against the terrible destruction of birds for millinery purposes.

A hearty, cheerful tone pervades the book, humorous turns of speech and thought abound, and if the style is now and then almost too colloquial, the fact is explained by the statement that the sketches were originally prepared for a school paper. Happy must be the boys under such a master; it would be hard for the dullest or the most thoughtless to come under his influence without acquiring a keener observation, a wider interest, and a more tender sympathy.

R. H.

Lake Urmi. — The natural history of Lake Urmi in northwestern Persia has been described by R. T. Günther.¹ The lake lies in the highlands that separate the river systems of the Atlantic, the Indian, and the Arctic Oceans and has no outlet. It has been described as "dead," but its waters, though containing about three-fifths as much saline matter as the Dead Sea, harbor a number of organisms. Masses of zoöglæa of micrococci invested by diatoms, and numbers of the brine shrimp, *Artemia urmiana*, find life possible in this water. It was estimated that about twelve hundred Artemias per cubic meter was a fair average for the whole lake. The fresh-water streams flowing into the lake contain fish which, when carried into the lake, are killed by its salinity. The conditions of the fish faunas of the several rivers indicate that the lake has for a long time been an efficient barrier to intercommunication. A description of the land fauna and flora surrounding the lake and a list of the local names of many animals are given. The paper also includes descriptions of the species of animals both recent and fossil collected by Günther, but worked up by other authorities.

P.

¹ Günther, R. T. Contributions to the Natural History of Lake Urmi, Northwestern Persia, and its Neighborhood. *Journ. Linnæan Soc. Zool.*, vol. xxvii, pp. 345-453, 1899.